DARK HORSE COMICS

THE TERMINATOR™: SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

1 (of 4)

$2.50 U.S.
$3.00 CANADA

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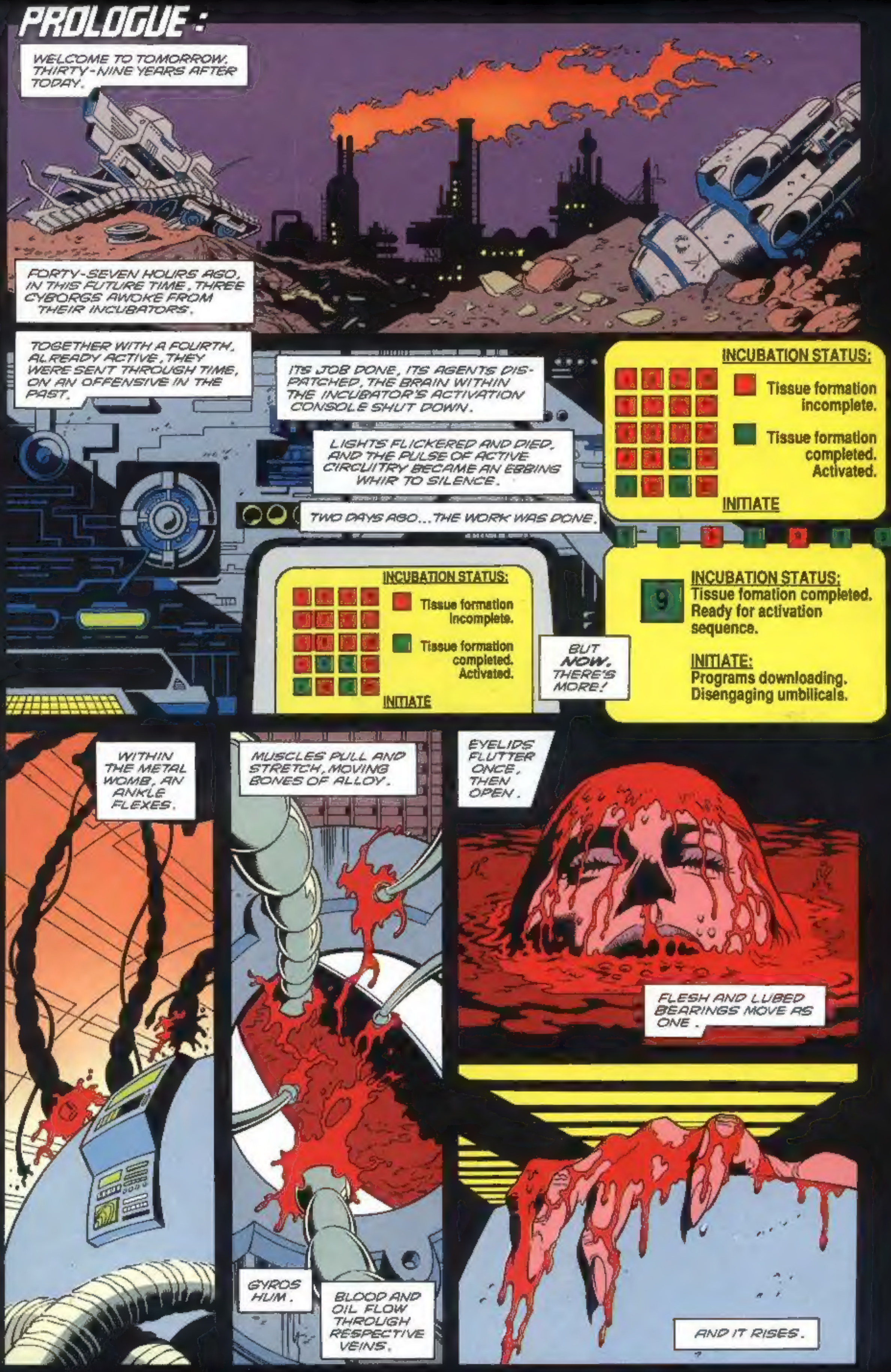
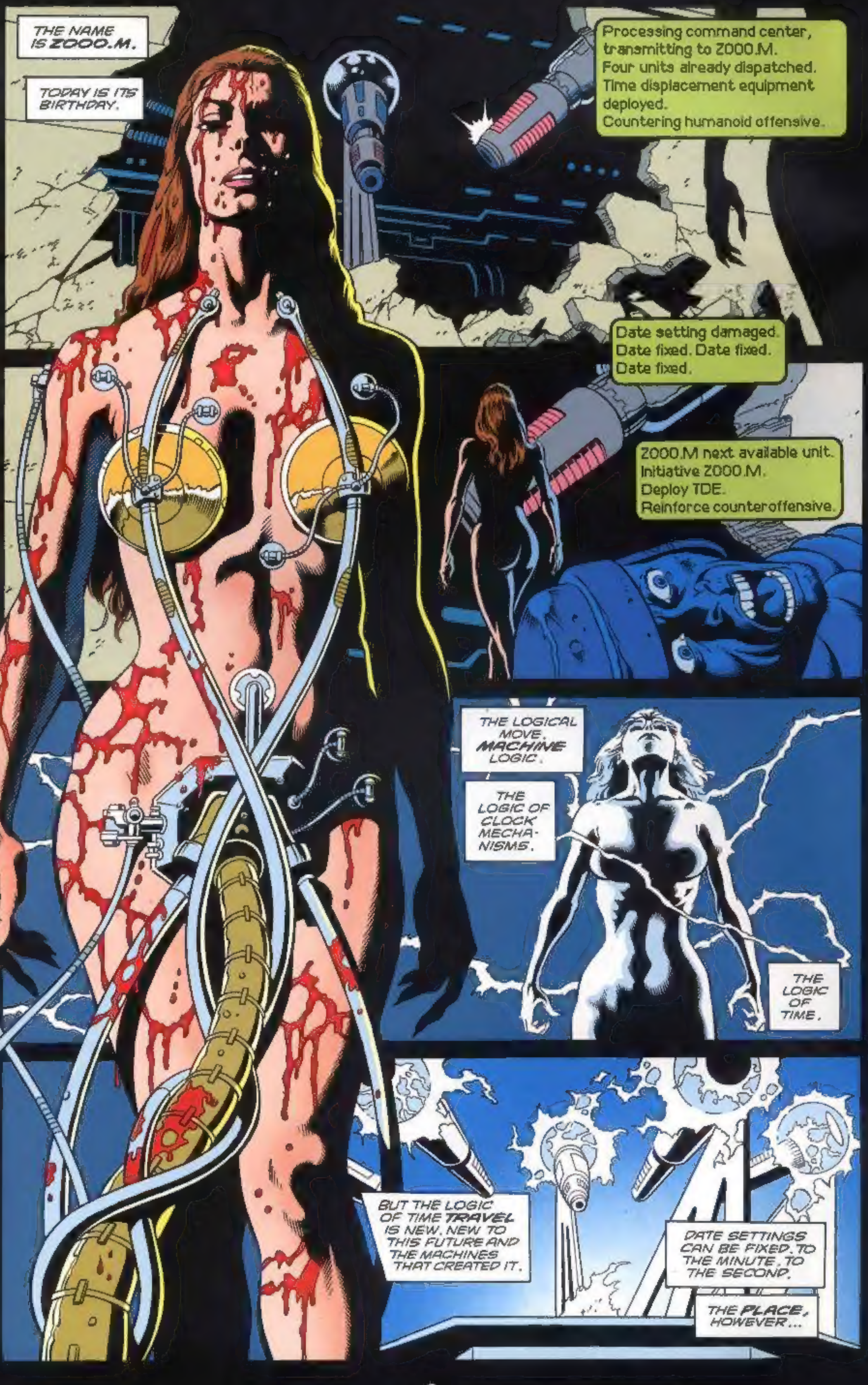
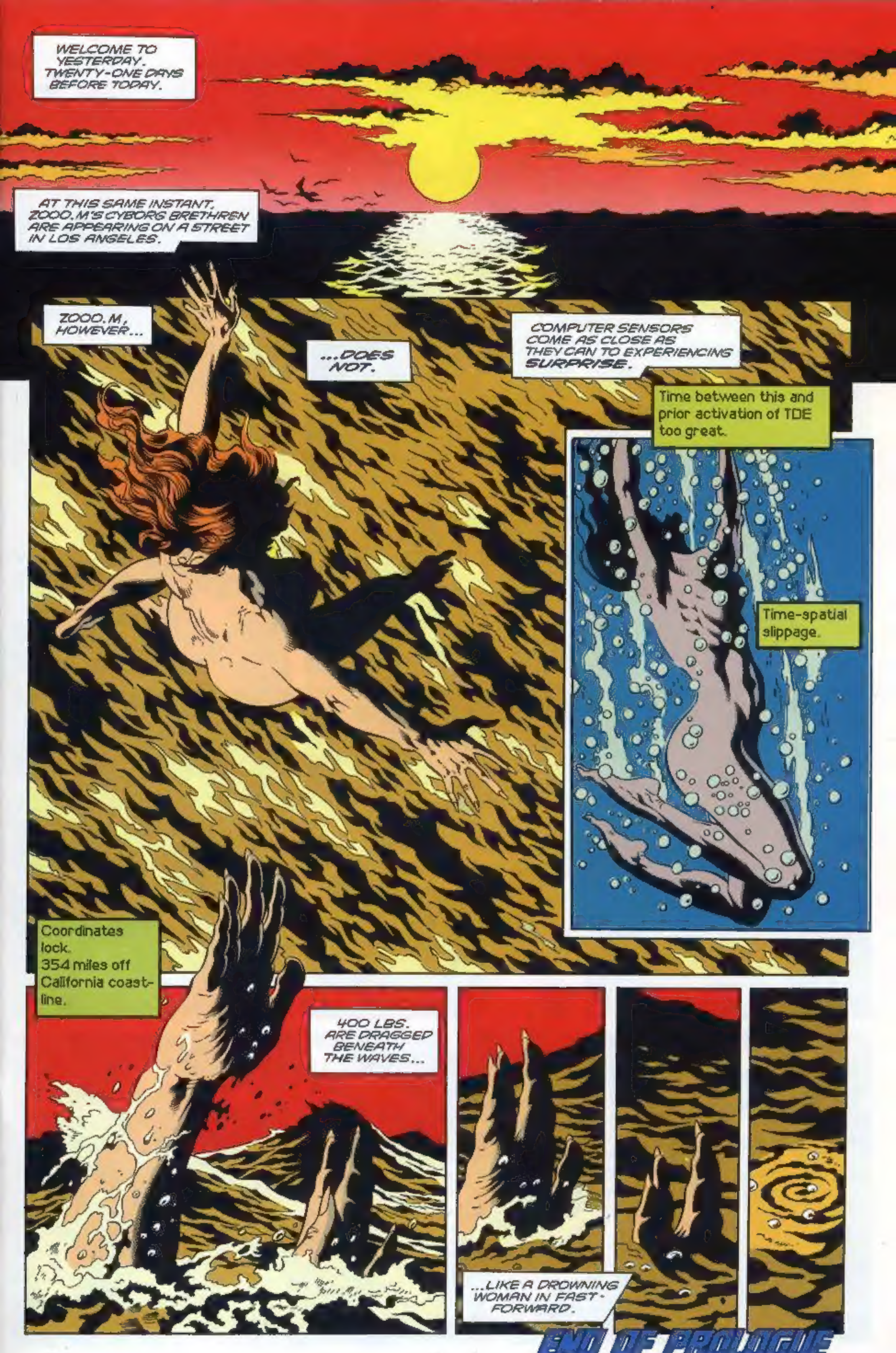
Based on a plot by MIKE RICHARDSON and RANDY STRADLEY


PROLOGUE:
WELCOME TO TOMORROW. THIRTY-NINE YEARS AFTER TODAY.
FORTY-SEVEN HOURS AGO, IN THIS FUTURE TIME, THREE CYBORGS AWOKE FROM THEIR INCUBATORS.
TOGETHER WITH A FOURTH, ALREADY ACTIVE, THEY WERE SENT THROUGH TIME, ON AN OFFENSIVE IN THE PAST.
ITS JOB DONE, ITS AGENTS DISPATCHED, THE BRAIN WITHIN THE INCUBATOR'S ACTIVATION CONSOLE SHUT DOWN.
LIGHTS FLICKERED AND DIED, AND THE PULSE OF ACTIVE CIRCUITRY BECAME AN EBBING WHIR TO SILENCE.
TWO DAYS AGO... THE WORK WAS DONE.
INCUBATION STATUS:
Tissue formation incomplete.
Tissue formation completed. Activated.
INITIATE
INCUBATION STATUS:
Tissue formation incomplete.
Tissue formation completed. Activated.
INITIATE
BUT NOW, THERE'S MORE!
INCUBATION STATUS:
9
Tissue fomation completed. Ready for activation sequence.
INITIATE:
Programs downloading. Disengaging umbilicals.
WITHIN THE METAL WOMB, AN ANKLE FLEXES.
MUSCLES PULL AND STRETCH, MOVING BONES OF ALLOY.
GYROS HUM.
BLOOD AND OIL FLOW THROUGH RESPECTIVE VEINS.
EYELIDS FLUTTER ONCE, THEN OPEN.
FLESH AND LUBED BEARINGS MOVE AS ONE.
AND IT RISES.


THE NAME IS ZOOO.M.
TODAY IS ITS BIRTHDAY.
Processing command center, transmitting to Z000.M. Four units already dispatched. Time displacement equipment deployed. Countering humanoid offensive.
Date setting damaged. Date fixed. Date fixed. Date fixed.
Z000.M next available unit. Initiative Z000.M. Deploy TDE. Reinforce counteroffensive.
THE LOGICAL MOVE. MACHINE LOGIC.
THE LOGIC OF CLOCK MECHA-NISMS.
THE LOGIC OF TIME.
BUT THE LOGIC OF TIME TRAVEL IS NEW. NEW TO THIS FUTURE AND THE MACHINES THAT CREATED IT.
DATE SETTINGS CAN BE FIXED. TO THE MINUTE. TO THE SECOND.
THE PLACE, HOWEVER...

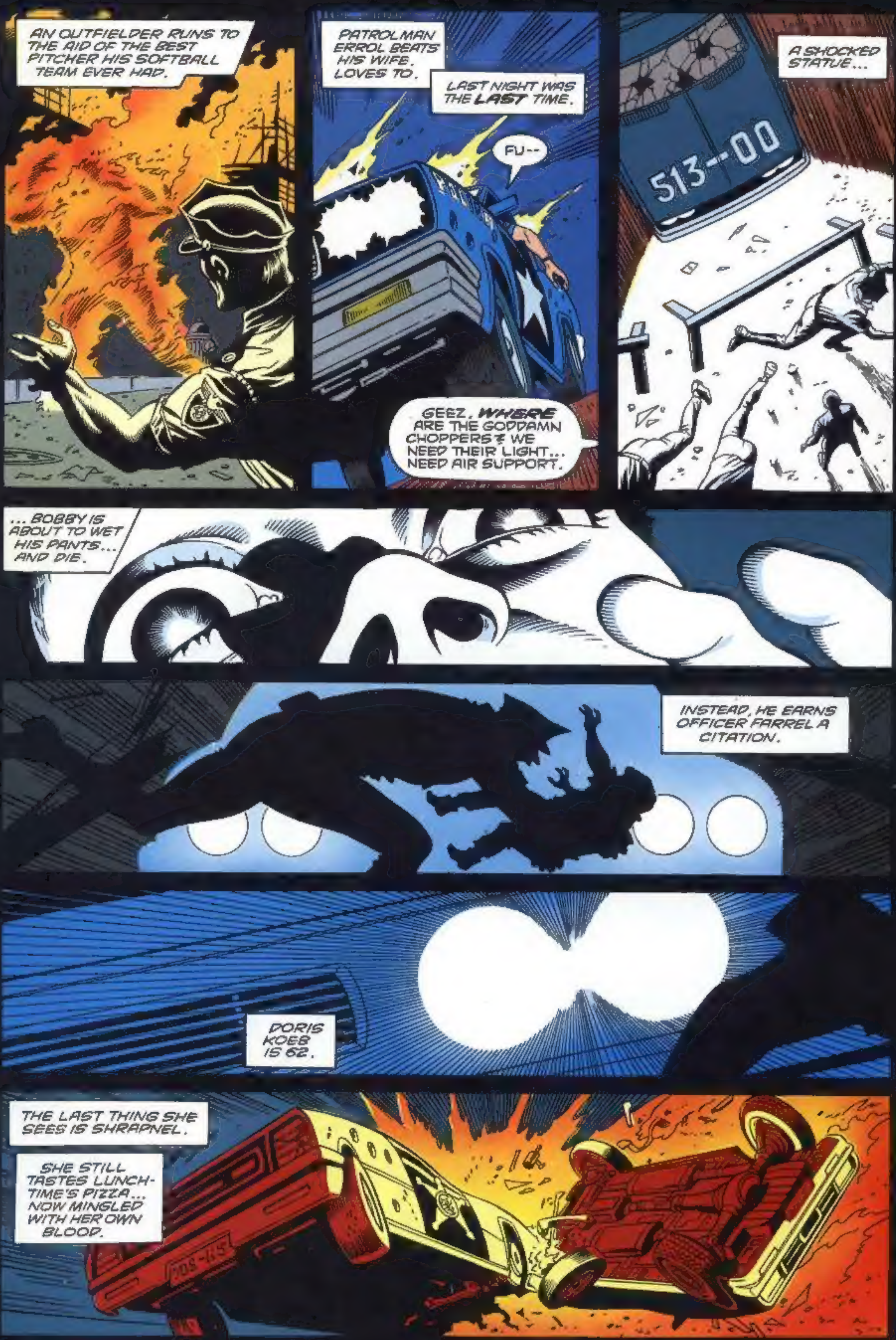

WELCOME TO YESTERDAY. TWENTY-ONE DAYS BEFORE TODAY.
AT THIS SAME INSTANT, ZOOO.M'S CYBORG BRETHREN ARE APPEARING ON A STREET IN LOS ANGELES.
ZOOO.M, HOWEVER...
...DOES NOT.
COMPUTER SENSORS COME AS CLOSE AS THEY CAN TO EXPERIENCING SURPRISE.
Time between this and prior activation of TDE too great.
Time-spatial slippage.
Coordinates lock. 354 miles off California coast-line.
400 LBS. ARE DRAGGED BENEATH THE WAVES...
...LIKE A DROWNING WOMAN IN FAST-FORWARD.
END OF PROLOGUE

WELCOME TO THE PRESENT.
GENTLE WINDS, A MILD PROMISE FROM THE SANTA ANAS, STROKE THE PALM LEAVES OF THIS PASADENA AVENUE.
California
701—DIE
TIME
KRUNCHO CHIPS
IT'S OVER, THINKS MARY. IT'S FINALLY OVER.
THERE'S A STRANGE EMOTION WITHIN HER, NEW, NEVER FELT BEFORE.
IT TAKES MORE THAN A MOMENT FOR HER TO REALIZE IT'S CONTENTMENT.
MARY HAD A SECOND NAME...
...BACK IN HER FUTURE-PAST.
SHE WAS TOLD IT ONCE WHEN SHE WAS EIGHT. THEN, FLYING MECHS APPEARED ON THE HORIZON... BATTLE REVEILLE SOUNDED...
...AND SHE FORGOT IT.
SHE'S A WOMAN--ALTHOUGH SHE WAS BEGINNING TO FORGET THAT AS WELL.
IN THE FUTURE TIME, THAT HOPEFULLY NOW WILL NEVER COME, SHE WAS A SOLDIER.
FIRST, LAST, AND EVERY WAKING SECOND.
BUT NOW, NO LONGER. IT'S OVER.
IT'S FINALLY OVER.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. HER TEAM DEAD... ALL OF THEM... BUT THEIR GOAL ATTAINED.
THERE WOULD BE NO DEVELOPMENT OF CYBORG TECHNOLOGY.
NO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. NO TERMINATORS.
MARY LOOKS OUT, AT A DUSK DAPPLED GREY-GREEN BY THE SMOG.
AND SEES A BEAUTY... A TRANQUILITY IN IT, THAT NO NATIVE OF THIS TIME COULD HOPE TO.
IT'S OVER, THINKS ASTIN.
HIS LIFE IS OVER.
HIS JOB IS GONE. HIS JOB.
A JOB THAT MIGHT HAVE HELPED TO ALL BUT DESTROY HUMANITY.
HE'D WORKED FOR A DESPOT HE HATED... BUT...
...THE DESPOT HAD PAID WELL. THE JOB HAD PAID WELL.
THE POLICE... THEY PROBABLY WANT HIM. HE'S SCARED TO GO TO HIS APARTMENT FOR THAT REASON.
AND GOD KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIS MOTORBIKE.
ALL HE'S BEEN THROUGH. ALL HE'S SEEN. SUCH KILLING. SUCH...
ASTIN'S FOREHEAD IS WRINKLED WITH WORRY.
THE ANKLE HE THOUGHT WAS BROKEN HAD PROVED MERELY SPRAINED. NEVERTHELESS, THIS HASN'T HELPED HIS MOOD.
HE'S BEGUN BITING HIS FINGERNAILS AGAIN. HE'D STOPPED THAT IN SIXTH GRADE.
AND THE DAMN SMOG HAS GIVEN HIM A MIGRAINE.
I AM HUMAN.
Negative.
I AM HUMAN.
Negative. You are 1825.M.
THAT IS NOT MY NAME... MY HUMAN NA--
Internal program responding. Negative. Negative. Negative.
I'VE HELPED PREVENT CYBERNETICS FROM EVER TAKING HOLD OF THE WORLD.
I'VE DONE A GREAT THING.
Negative. Unit has countermanded directive.
Rectify. Rectify.
Eliminate humanoid threat. Resume counteroffensive.
NO!
NO... I'M HUMAN. I'M NOT GOING TO...
Negative. Negative. You are 1825.M.
...SAM BRADDOCK FOR L.A. ACTION NEWS...

...IT'S 6:45 NOW, AND SOUTHEAST L.A....
...WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE AREA HAS BECOME A WAR ZONE.
WE HAVE A REPORT THAT THIS BEGAN WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL... AS YET UNIDENTIFIED ...INVADED THE HOME OF A REPUTED GANG LEADER.
APPARENTLY THE INDIVIDUAL WANTED NEITHER DRUGS NOR MONEY, BUT RATHER THE SIZABLE ARMS CACHE THAT THE GANG HAD STORED AT THIS HOUSEHOLD.
SHOTS WERE FIRED, THE ENCOUNTER REPORTEDLY LEADING TO THE DEATH OF ALL GANG MEMBERS WHO WERE PRESENT AT THAT TIME.
POLICE WERE CALLED TO THE SCENE... AND WERE OPENED FIRE ON--
--SHOTS COMING FROM... WELL, FROM EVERYWHERE.
THESE SHOTS CAME AS THE INDIVIDUAL RETREATED INTO THE SHADOWS. WE CAN ASSUME HE MUST BE IN LEAGUE WITH OTHERS.
POLICE
IT WOULD TAKE... AN ARMY TO PRODUCE THIS AMOUNT OF DESTRUCTION... FIRING ON THE POLICE FROM THIS MANY DIRECTIONS.
NOT ONE MAN. IMPOSSIBLE.

AT PRESENT THIRTY-NINE POLICE OFFICERS ARE DEAD...
...WITH MANY MORE SUSTAINING SERIOUS INJURIII-- EEHHHH!!
HERE, GIVE ME A HAND WITH HIM.
WE HAVE TO KEEP BROADCASTING THIS. GIVE ME THE MICROPHONE.
AND WIPE THE LENS, FOR GOD'S SAKE...
YOU'VE JUST SEEN SAM BRADDOCK STRUCK DOWN. HE'S...DEAD...ONE MORE CASUALTY IN WHAT COULD BE THE BLOODIEST DAY IN L.A.'S HISTORY.
GUNFIRE'S COMING FROM EVERYWHERE. NOTHING...NO ONE APPEARS ABLE TO GET ADEQUATE COVER.
AND THE MYSTERY REMAINS... JUST WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CARNAGE?

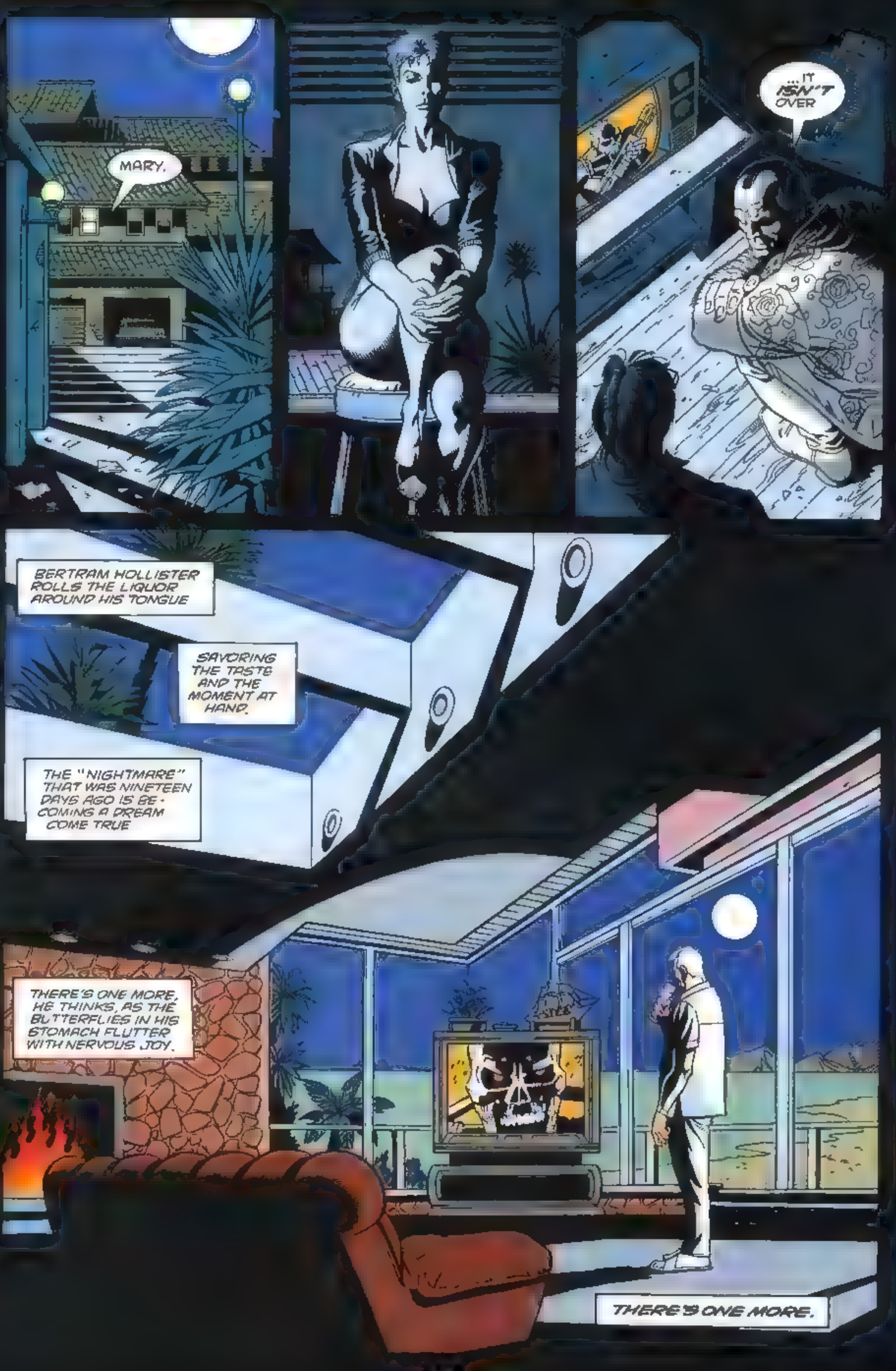
HIT... I'M DOW--
LEG... GOT...
DARK. TOO DAMN DA--
...CAN'T SEE...
AHHH... SHI--
HARRY... DON' WORRY...
...LEAN ON ME. I'LL GET YOU OUT OF...
NNEEHAHH!
I'M HIT... HARRY? WAIT. HELP...
HAR--? YOU SONUV--
A GUN, THAT THINKS IT'S A CANNON, FIRES...
BRADADADADAD
...TO A SOUNDTRACK OF SCREAMS, EXPLOSIONS, AND BREAKING GLASS.


AN OUTFIELDER RUNS TO THE AID OF THE BEST PITCHER HIS SOFTBALL TEAM EVER HAD.
PATROLMAN ERROL BEATS HIS WIFE. LOVES TO.
LAST NIGHT WAS THE LAST TIME.
FU--
GEEZ, WHERE ARE THE GODDAMN CHOPPERS? WE NEED THEIR LIGHT... NEED AIR SUPPORT.
A SHOCKED STATUE...
513--00
...BOBBY IS ABOUT TO WET HIS PANTS... AND DIE.
INSTEAD, HE EARNS OFFICER FARREL A CITATION.
DORIS KOEB IS 62.
THE LAST THING SHE SEES IS SHRAPNEL.
SHE STILL TASTES LUNCH-TIME'S PIZZA... NOW MINGLED WITH HER OWN BLOOD.

YOU WANT LIGHT, YOU GOT IT. AIR SUPPORT'S HERE. THE CAVALRY'S ARRIVED.
'BOUT TIME. YOU FINALLY DECIDE TO SHOW UP, HUH?
HOW LONG'S IT TAKE YOU TO GET HERE? YOU'N' YOUR LIGHT? WE'RE DYING DOWN HERE, YOU KNOW. WE ARE DYING.
WE GOT FOUR MAINTENANCE GUYS WITH THE FLU... TWO CHOPPERS OUT FOR REPAIR AND NO ONE TO DO IT.
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? BAD LUCK.
"BAD LUCK"?! YOU! COME DOWN HERE... I'LL GIVE YOU "BAD LUCK"!
BRADADADADADAWWW
ZIP
ZING
WHUMPF

MY GOD. JEEZUS! IF WE ARE DEALING WITH ONE GUY, THEN IT'S ALL OVER. YOU SEE? THAT WAS WHERE THE SHOTS CAME FROM--BY THAT BUILDING.
HE'S BROUGHT THE CHOPPER DOWN ON HIMSELF.
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, DAMMIT. WE DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN.
WE DON'T KNOW MUCHA ANYTHING.
BUT YEAH. IT DOES LOOK LIKE...
WAIT .. SOME-THING
. ONE ..
..COMING FROM THE FLAMES.
...FROM THE FIRE ..
SKIN DECAYING, THE VENEER OF HUMANITY LOST...SO, TIME NEEDED TO BECOME FULLY FUNCTIONAL--AFTER THE EXPLOSIVE PLUNGE OFF THE BRIDGE--HAD BECOME TIME IN HIDING ..
.. WEEKS IN THE SHADOWS, THE DARKNESS, WARY OF EYES, NEEDING FIREPOWER...

NOW... HAS WHAT IT NEEDS
ITS NAME IS C390 L.
AND ITS
IS OVER.


MARY.
...IT ISN'T OVER
BERTRAM HOLLISTER ROLLS THE LIQUOR AROUND HIS TONGUE
SAVORING THE TASTE AND THE MOMENT AT HAND.
THE "NIGHTMARE" THAT WAS NINETEEN DAYS AGO IS BE-COMING A DREAM COME TRUE
THERE'S ONE MORE, HE THINKS, AS THE BUTTERFLIES IN HIS STOMACH FLUTTER WITH NERVOUS JOY.
THERE'S ONE MORE.

FIRING.. F--
HA-HA-HA-HA...NOT POSSIBLE ...HA--
COMING STRAIGHT..
DOWN... GET...
THOUGHTS BECOME FINAL THOUGHTS.
PU--
WORDS BECOME LAST WORDS.
FEAR BECOMES SHOCK BECOMES FEAR
SOME DIE WITH A SCREAM
A MOAN.
A COUGH
A CURSE.
SOME DIE IN SILENCE
A TINKLING MELODY IS AUDIBLE OVER THE SCREAMS--LIKE A XYLOPHONE ON SPEED:
C890.L'S USED SHELL-CASINGS HITTING THE PAVEMENT.
EYES ..
CK THIS!
Mmnuhh..
I'M.

. MY EYES.
BLEEDING HELL .
HURTIN
DOWN.
IBARRA.
THREE YEARS AGO, DETECTIVE MARK SLOANE TRACKED A KILLER, USING CLUES AND CLEVERNESS.
BUT THINGS WENT BAD, AS THINGS SOME-TIMES DO. THE VILLAIN GOT THE UPPER HAND, AND SLOANE FOUND HIMSELF LOOKING INTO THE BARREL OF THE KILLER'S GUN.
THEN. . A SHOT RANG OUT. THE KILLER FELL.
A PASSING PATROLMAN SAVED THE DAY--AND SLOANE'S LIFE
Godgodgod...
THE PATROLMAN WAS PAULO IBARRA

SLOANE'S LEGS BEGIN TO MOVE BEFORE HIS BRAIN DOES--HEART BEATING SO HARD IT HURTS.
DO SOMETHING.. HE HAS TO
HE KNOWS HE'LL DIE
HE KNOWS
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I'M ALIVE
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
HE'S ALIVE
I WAS READY TO TAKE THE PICTURE ...AND IT DIDN'T KILL HIM...
..THINKS BARRY DILL.
THE FIRST WORD OF NEWS AND HE'S MOBILE HE'S HERE HE'S THERE WHEREVER
BARRY DILL AND HIS CAMERA

AND NOW HE'S INTRIGUED. NOW HE'S THINKING
THE COP, YES, BUT NOT THE SUIT. WHY?
I DON'T GET IT THAT COP WAS WALKING WOUNDED HE WAS OUT OF IT
. THROWS GUN . GREAT SHOT.
..BOTH HANDS IN THE AIR . NICE SYMMETRY. .
.. BOTH HANDS.. BOTH HANDS...
AND IN A FLASH . REALIZATION
IT'S SAVING AMMO, DILL THINKS.. KILLING ONLY THOSE WHO ARE ARMED .
C890.L. INTERNAL PROGRAMMING
WARNING: AMMUNITION DEPLETED
INITIATIVE: AMMUNITION CONSERVATION
>CHANNEL OFFENSIVE SOLELY TO ARMED/ HOSTILE ANTAGONISTS
TARGET PASSIVE ELIMINATION FUTILE
TARGET ARMED/ HOSTILE. ELIMINATE

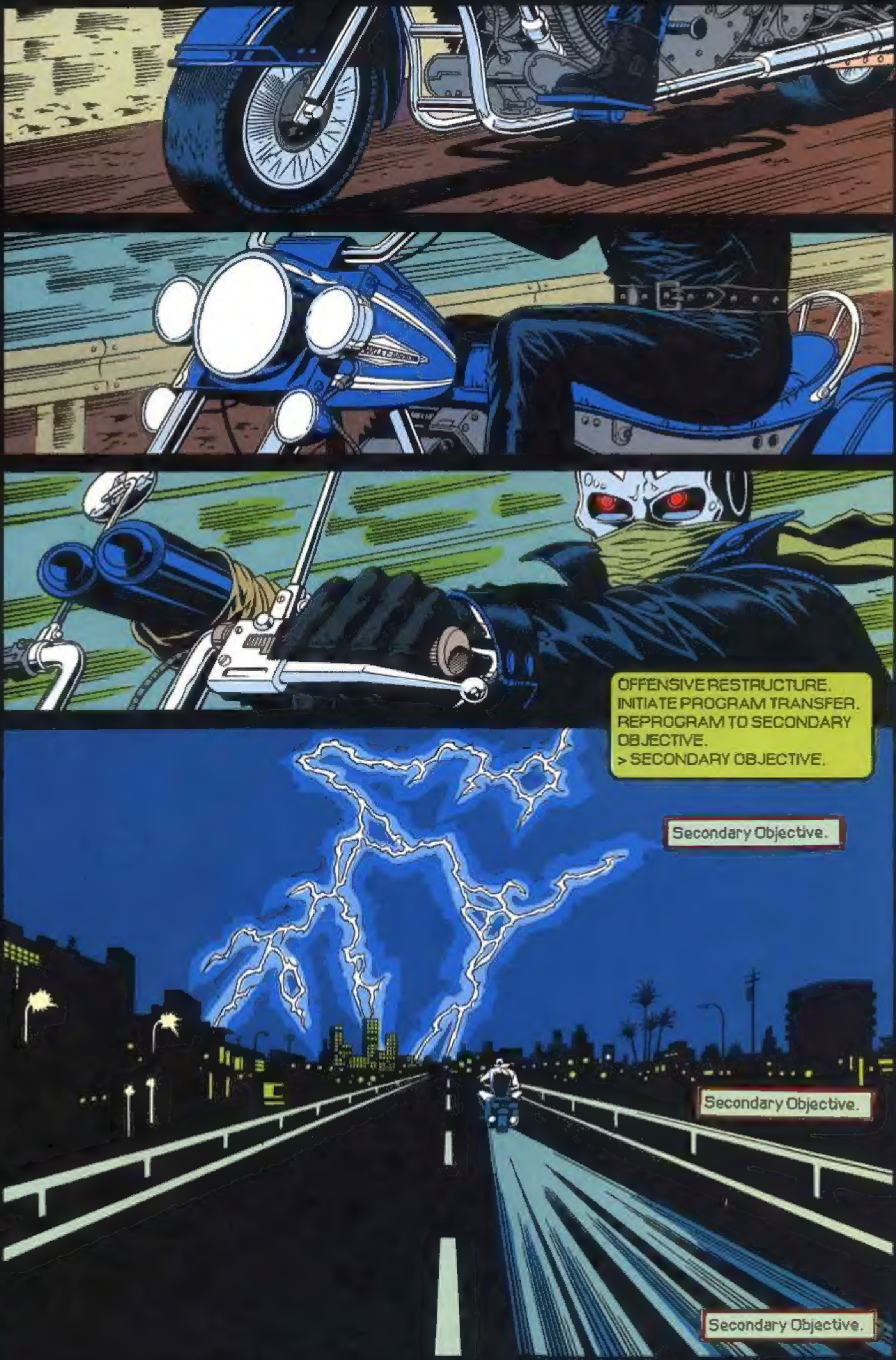
GREAT PICTURES...
DILL IS EXCITED BREATHLESS. HIS PALMS SWEAT HIS ARMS SHAKE HE ALMOST DROPS THE CAMERA
GREAT SHOTS ..
..MONEY IN THE BANK
WAIT...NO ..I..
I'M NOT ARMED
HE ISN'T ARMED
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S IN FRONT OF A POLICEMAN WHO IS!

GONE. I'M GONE. I'M OUTTA H--
YOU... ARE GOING NOWHERE.
AND YOU... ARE GOING TO HELL.

SLOANE IS QUICK TO HIS FEET.
QUICK TO TRY TO LOOK THROUGH THE SMOKE AND DUST AT WHERE DEATH WILL COME FROM NEXT.
THEN HE REALIZES. .
THEN EVERYONE REALIZES...
. DANGER'S PAST . .
...IT'S OVER
CALLS FOR A SMOKE

SO, WE'VE MORE TO DO.
AND NOT JUST STOPPING THE DEATH AND SLAUGHTER ..
THAT'S 800-MODEL TERMINATOR TECHNOLOGY RUNNING AROUND.
TO BE STUDIED AND DEVELOPED, TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF HOLLISTER .OR SOME-ONE LIKE HIM
THERE'S MORE
I KNOW WHAT C890.L IS GOING TO DO. THE MACHINE PART OF ME KNOWS.
IT'S GOING TO PREVENT JOHN CONNOR'S BIRTH.
JOHN...? BUT WE'RE STILL HERE... WE'RE STI--
LISTEN..

...C890.L HASN'T RE-ARMED ITSELF FOR MORE OF THE SAME WITH *US*.
T-CHK
IT'S STALEMATED HERE. IT KNOWS IT.
ITS PLANS ARE CHANGED... TO THE *SECONDARY OBJECTIVE*.
SECOND--?
THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVE IS THE AIM OF THE *FIRST* TERMINATOR OFFENSIVE IN THIS TIME...
KLIK
...*FIND SARAH CONNOR*.
KILL SARAH CONNOR.



OFFENSIVE RESTRUCTURE.
INITIATE PROGRAM TRANSFER.
REPROGRAM TO SECONDARY OBJECTIVE.
> SECONDARY OBJECTIVE.
Secondary Objective.
Secondary Objective.
Secondary Objective.

TERMINAL CASES

10956 S.E. MAIN STREET MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

While waiting for your commentary on this very issue of *Terminator: Secondary Objectives*, I thought I'd print some letters on our first *Terminator* series, *Tempest* (currently available as a trade paperback collection — plug, plug). Due to the curious time differential between preparing a letters page and actually printing the comic book in which it appears, these letters, on issues #2 and #3, arrived too late to see print in that first series...

Who can spot the two instances of sexism in this first letter? Don't worry — *I'll* point them out to you!

Dear Dark Horsemen **[yup — here's one]**,

I would like to congratulate you guys **[Last time I checked, neither Tiffany, Debbie, Cece, Barbara, nor I were "guys."]** on another great book, *Terminator*. I just loved the artwork. Since you now have the rights to publish *Terminator*, I was wondering: Is there going to be a *DHP* one-shot issue? While on that note, what about a Terminator vs. Predator series? It would be great. Imagine, the Predators come to Earth in the midst of Terminator rule.

Brian Singleton
4070 East 120th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90061

Sorry to make an example of your letter, Brian, but you wouldn't believe the number of letters I get addressed to "Dear *Sir*." It can be pretty aggravating, as I'm sure you understand, and I feel that, as the editor of this book, I have some responsibility to educate the readers. Thanks for giving me the opportunity.

Now, onto your questions. While there are no plans for a one-shot *DHP* issue featuring the Terminator, the 48-page prestige format *Terminator: One Shot* should be on the stands right now, written by James Robinson and painted by Matt Wagner.

As to a Terminator/Predator crossover, well...are you familiar with the expression "a cold day in hell"?! While we'd love to do it, the licensing difficulties this would pose are enormous, as each character is owned by a different company. However, we do have plans for a very special crossover featuring the Terminator...so stay tuned for details!

Dear *Terminator* crew,

Congratulations on the first two issues of *The Terminator*! Chris Warner's artwork is just right for this comic. The story line, which I assume takes place after the events in the movie, is also excellent, thanks to John Arcudi. I have a couple of questions for you:

1. Will John Connor appear in any future *Terminator* stories?
2. Will *The Terminator* become an ongoing monthly series like *Aliens*?

That's all for now. Good luck with this series in the future!

Your #1 fan,
Stephen Waddell
7911 Churchill Drive SW
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2V 2S3

1. John Connor makes a very brief appearance in *The Terminator: One Shot*.
2. *Aliens* isn't a monthly series, Stephen. As with all our licensed titles, *Terminator* will be released as a series of limited series, with each of the latter comprising one complete story (although there are continuity threads between each limited series). *Terminator: The Enemy Within* is the four-issue series immediately following this one.

Dearest Diana:

Your wish is my command. *The Terminator* #2 is another great issue. Chris Warner's covers are indeed a work of art. Is someone going to get all four of them together as a portfolio? How many horses does the bike on the cover have?

I like the idea of having women in this story line. The female Terminator for some reason spooks me. I like how each robot has its own

caption color while processing data.

The only real complaint I have is that it's only going to be a four-parter. Any way to convince you to make it a regular story? If you all keep up this great work, the Big Two just might become the Big Three!

Todd Velchek
4007 Newcastle
Decatur, IL 62526

My boss says we're workin' on it, Todd! As to Chris's covers, you must've read our mind, since they have been collected in the Terminator Portfolio, released last year and featuring additional Terminator artwork by Mike Mignola, Arthur Adams, and Denis Beauvais.

Dear *Terminator* crew,

I would like to comment on the second issue of the *Terminator* comic. First off, the art and inking jobs are excellent, to say the least, and I hope you keep the team of Chris Warner and Paul Guinan for a long time to come. This is the first issue of *Terminator* I've read, not to mention the first Dark Horse comic I've read, and I was impressed.

The only complaint I have is the price of this comic. $2.50 is pretty high, compared to some other titles I collect, and considering I'm one year shy of getting a job, it is pretty expensive. Well, other than that, this comic is one of the best comics I've seen, so good luck in the years ahead, and adios!

Dan Rosas
(address withheld by request)

Dan, it's true that comics are pretty expensive these days. That's due not only to rising paper costs and a greater concern with production quality, but also to the fact that writers and artists now share in the profits made by the books themselves. In the dark ages of comics it was easy to keep the prices low, so long as creative teams were underpaid; Dark Horse was established with more equitable treatment of comics creators as a company credo.

Dear Diana,

The Terminator is a real treat. In my entire history of comic reading I have not encountered a comic as engrossing as this one. In fact, I showed this particular comic to my mother, who discourages me from reading comics, stating that they are a waste of time. She completed the book within 10 minutes, and I've not encountered a problem regarding comics since. I think you guys (and gals) **[Tiffany, Debbie, Cece, Barbara, and I thank you!]** deserve a pat on the back for a piece of work well done.

Credit should be given to Messrs. John Arcudi and Chris Warner, without whom this book would not be a phenomenal success. Mr. Arcudi's story reads like a screenplay, and Mr. Warner's art gives the reader the impression that they're looking at a movie. I would like to specially mention that Miss (or Mrs.?!) **[try "Ms."]** Karen Casey-Smith's lettering is pleasing to the eye and not cluttered and messy, which is the bane of many letterers today.

I did, however, spot a mistake. In issue #3, page 3, panel 2, the Terminator unit HC875.S is shown with his metallic components exposed and his left trousers ripped at the knee. On page 8, panel 1, he is shown with a perfect pair of trousers! Now, one might be able to say that he changed to a new pair of trousers, but on page 15 his left pants leg is again torn to the point where his metal components can be seen clearly. Someone is clearly not doing her job in the editing department!

But I think such carelessness can be excused, as one has to edit not one but the entire line of Dark Horse comics. Anyway, keep up the good work — and can we hopefully see a sequel in the future?

Yours faithfully,
John Teoh
205, Taman Tuan Sheikh
71000 Port Dickson
Negeri Sembilan
Malaysia

One does *not* have to edit Dark Horse's entire line, although one *does* have to *schedule* Dark Horse's entire line! But you should take another look at HC875.S's trousers: on page 3, they are ripped in front, with a hole at the knee; on page 8, we see them from behind, so the hole is invisible; by page 15, the cyborg has chosen to dispense with the shredding material and has simply ripped the whole pants leg off at the knee. No inconsistency there, John. Of course, keep your eyes peeled in the future, if you like spotting that sort of thing; I'm surely not immune to making mistakes!

As to your request for a sequel, you're reading it!

Dear Diana,

Terminator has always been a great favorite of mine, both as a film and as a concept. It is a tribute to the creators of *Terminator* that Dark Horse did this comic. I waited until issue #3 to write you so I could appreciate the series before I expressed some opinions. The cover was super — the best yet. It is so great to see Chris Warner's art again. His work on *Predator* was matchless, and *Terminator* is as good. His work flows so nicely that it reminds me of a film; I felt the same way about *Predator*. The gore and graphic violence are done well. With casual

splashes of blood on asphalt and torn torsos, Chris conveys the violence that is so inherent in the story line. We are made to understand that the Terminators kill without feeling. The grim, expressionless faces of the Terminators conflict sharply with the expressive faces of the rebels. The powerful emotion in Chris's drawing of Mary (on page 9, panel 2) and the stoical face of C890.L illustrate this difference well. When the Terminator breaks a man's neck or rips down a fence, it is not the movement of a human Chris draws, but the picturesque movement of a powerful, efficient, deadly machine.

The writing lacked coherence in the first two issues, although it was fun and enjoyable to read and the action was plentiful. By issue #3, however, the book had more direction. Plots within plots are becoming apparent, as well as instances of the clashing of two different cultures. I can see some very basic problems ahead for our heroes, such as Naomi (R.I.P.) explaining, "Imagine how tough it must be to have to kill a *person*."

The Terminators are also undergoing a psycho-cultural shock. When C850.D and C890.L opened the locker containing the dismembered cyborg, I expect their feelings were more human than machine. I hope the intricacies in plot continue. As a reader I can become more absorbed in a thoughtful, complex story.

I wonder about Dr. Hollister's importance to the Terminators' future. Time travel has a way of causing the most unexpected outcomes. Are the Terminators so sure of the circumstances that led to their domination of Earth? Thank goodness they are not at all sure of the rebels.

Fight the good fight,
Joanne Gazzola
516 Main Street #50
East Haven, CT 06512

Speaking of thoughtful, complex stories, Joanne, please let us know what you think of this one. Although James Robinson has been writing comics for quite a while now, due to that curious time lag I mentioned at the beginning of this lettercol, very little of his work has actually seen print to date, so he and I are both anxious to get people's reactions.

Lady Di —

After reading the third issue of the Dark Horse *Terminator* series, I've decided that once this current four-issue set is concluded, I'm terminating this title from my purchase list.

Don't get me wrong — the story is pretty good. And the artwork is nice. But I've recently begun to trim some titles from my buying list so that I might actually be able to afford to eat every once in a blue moon.

Any chance of Black Cross or Trekker getting their shot at a mini-series? **[Sure — if Chris and Ron can find the time to work on their respective characters.]**

See ya at Munden's (once I can pry the boards away from the doors and windows).

Uncle Elvis
17650 Dawson Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

I'm not sure it's fair to judge subsequent limited series on the strength of the first one, Elvis — especially when the creative teams differ. Besides, now that your favorite watering hole's been closed down, you should have a few extra pennies to keep your reading list in gear!

Folks:

Yet *another* great issue! How do you do it? Well, since all four issues put together make one coherent story, I suppose I can see how... But now my question is: How do you come up with such great stories? **[Mike Richardson and Randy Stradley butt heads until something emerges! I know, it's pretty ugly, but somebody's gotta do it!]** As I understand it, the original Terminator was destroyed at a Cyberdyne facility and, in the original script, an employee there was meant to discover the remains — and now there are *more* Terminators involved! (Perhaps Dr. Hollister could do some surgery on the guy with the missing leg tissue...)

The artwork is terrific, my favorites being the bottom panel on page 4 and the entire section on pages 14 to 18.

I'm puzzled by the reference on page 23 to the "impossible" Terminator remains. Were these Terminators simply misinformed as to their origins? Or are you suggesting something deeper — like all those time travel trips have actually *interfered* with the past and an entirely different future time line may spring from these events? Whoa...what a concept.

Can't wait for part 4,
Peter T. Chattaway
6666 Arlington Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V5S 3N9

Just trying to think about the last paragraph of your letter is giving me a headache, Peter! But I took the script to imply that these Terminators were unaware only that they weren't the first to go back; in other words, what seemed "impossible" was that there were Terminator remains in the present time.

Next issue: She's beautiful, she's deadly — and she ain't no lady! The L.A. summer just got hotter as Z000.M, the latest Terminator on the tinseltown scene, hits the streets! See you, as they say, in thirty.
— Diana Schutz